

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 17-22 are pending in the application, where claims 1 and 18 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the Application fully complies with the written description requirement, and reasonably conveys that the inventors, at the time the Application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. However, in the interest of advancing consideration and allowance of the present application, and to reduce issues should an appeal be necessary, the claims are amended herein. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is overcome.

In particular, page 4, line 31 to page 5, line 4 of the specification recite that (illustrative emphasis provided):

structured arrangement is preferably formed by sandblasting, laser treatment, surface etching, surface slitting and/or roughening, and is possibly finished by a thermal treatment, for example fire polishing. Thus it is possible for the inner vessel and/or outer bulb to comprise several mutually attuned or non-attuned surfaces which make for a homogeneous or inhomogeneous structured arrangement. It is possible in this manner for the inner vessel and/or outer bulb to comprise several surfaces of different structures, homogeneously structured surfaces as well as inhomogeneously structured surfaces.

Further, page 5, line 31 to page 6, line 8 of the specification recite that (illustrative emphasis provided):

The structured arrangement of the inner vessel and/or outer bulb may be created in a first step by means of etching, sandblasting, grinding, and/or a laser treatment, whereupon possibly the structured arrangement thus created is finished in a second step by a thermal method, for example fire polishing. A structured arrangement within a material layer of the inner vessel and/or outer bulb is advantageously achieved by means of a laser.

Suitable structure patterns comprise lines, dots, circles, rectangles, polygons, combinations thereof, and superimpositions thereof. The lines may be straight, curved, wavy, spiraling, etc. The dots, circles, rectangles, polygons, etc. may be of the same or of different sizes, and they may be partly or fully planar in shape. It is

advantageous for obtaining an inhomogeneous structured arrangement when different structure patterns are superimposed on one another.

In addition, page 6, line 31 to page 7, line 1 of the specification recite that (illustrative emphasis provided):

A structured arrangement may also be applied by means of sandblasting and/or a grinding medium, such that the outer bulb and/or inner vessel is superficially cut. To achieve a discharge arc diffuseness of approximately dD 0.3 mm, it may be advantageous to give the structured surface an aftertreatment in a subsequent thermal step, for example by fire polishing.

It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would have no trouble understanding that the inventors, at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, where "a surface of at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb is altered to form a pattern," where the pattern may be formed by sandblasting, laser treatment, surface etching, grinding, surface slitting and/or roughening, and is possibly finished by a thermal treatment, for example, as clearly described in the specification.

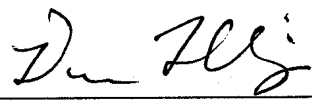
Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph to claims 1-15 and 17-22 is respectfully

requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 8, 2009

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